REMARKS

The Applicant respectfully requests further examination and consideration in view of the arguments set forth fully below. Claims 1-64 were previously pending in this application. Within the Office Action, Claims 1-64 have been rejected. Accordingly, Claims 1-64 are currently pending.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C § 102

Within the Office Action, Claims 1-4, 6, 8-12, 16, 17, 19-23, 27-29, 31-34, 36, 39-41, 43-46, 48, 50-56, 60, 61, 63, and 64 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,163,644 to Owashi et al. (hereinafter "Owashi"). The Applicants respectfully disagree with this rejection.

Owashi discloses a method and apparatus for receiving a digital signal, recording a compressed, packeted digital signal and inhibiting a copy thereof. An input packet signal is added with a time stamp indicating a relative time of arrival of the packet, and the packet signals of digital information with the added time stamps are recorded. In reproducing, a packet interval adjusting circuit restores the original packet intervals in accordance with the time stamps, and then a time stamp change circuit changes at least one bit of the time stamp and thereafter outputs the digital information. In another embodiment, Owashi teaches using a comparator to compare the recording time of the digital signal with the present time. This result is used to determine if a reproduction limit has been exceeded. If the reproduction limit has been exceeded, Owashi teaches that the recorded tape cannot be reproduced freely. [Owashi, col. 18, lines 23-55] Owashi does not teach invalidating stored data. Further, Owashi does not teach a method or device which uses an embedded expiration time directly compared with the current time to determine if the stored data should be invalidated.

In contrast to the teachings of Owashi, the media storage device of the present invention ensures that downloaded digital data is only accessible for a predetermined period of time. An expiration time and the requested digital data are encrypted and downloaded from a content provider and stored as encrypted data on the media storage device. The expiration time indicates a specific time at which the digital data will be made invalid. At the onset of a predetermined time interval, the media storage device obtains a current global time from a secure clock, decrypts the expiration time, and compares the current global time to the expiration time. If the expiration time is earlier than the current global time, then the digital data stored in the media

storage device remains valid. While valid, the media storage device is able to retrieve and transmit the digital data for viewing. This process is repeated for each subsequent time interval. Once the expiration time elapses, the media storage device invalidates the digital data. Thereafter, the media storage device is unable to retrieve and transmit the digital data for viewing. As described above, Owashi does not teach invalidating data. Owashi teaches inhibiting reproduction. Further, Owashi does not teach a method or device which uses an embedded expiration time directly compared with the current time to determine if the stored data should be invalidated.

The independent Claim 1 is directed to a method of invalidating stored data after a predetermined period of time. The method of Claim 1 comprises obtaining a current time from a clock source, decrypting an expiration time associated with the stored data, comparing the expiration time to the current time, and invalidating the stored data if the current time is earlier than or equal to the expiration time. As described above, Owashi does not teach invalidating data. Owashi teaches inhibiting reproduction. For at least these reasons, the independent Claim 1 is allowable over the teachings of Owashi.

Claims 2-4, 6 and 8-10 are all dependent upon the independent Claim 1. As discussed above, the independent Claim 1 is allowable over the teachings of Owashi. Accordingly, Claims 2-4, 6 and 8-10 are all also allowable as being dependent upon an allowable base claim.

The independent Claim 11 is directed to a media storage device for invalidating stored data after a predetermined period of time. The media storage device of Claim 11 comprises an interface circuit, a media coupled to the interface circuit, and a control unit coupled to the interface circuit and the media. The interface circuit receives a stream of data. The stream of data includes content and an expiration time associated with the content. The media stores the received stream of data. The control unit compares a current time to the expiration time and enables the stored content to be read from the media if the expiration time is earlier than the current time and invalidates the received stream of data if the expiration time is later or equal to the current time. As described above, Owashi does not teach invalidating the received stream of data if the expiration time is later than or equal to the current time. Owashi teaches inhibiting reproduction. For at least these reasons, the independent Claim 11 is allowable over the teachings of Owashi.

Claims 12, 16, 17, 19 and 20 are all dependent upon the independent Claim 11. As discussed above, the independent Claim 11 is allowable over the teachings of Owashi. Accordingly, Claims 12, 16, 17, 19 and 20 are all also allowable as being dependent upon an allowable base claim.

The independent Claim 21 is directed to a method of reading stored data from a media storage device. The method of Claim 21 comprises decrypting an expiration time stored within the media storage device, comparing the expiration time to a global time to determine if the expiration time has elapsed and reading the stored data from the media storage device if the expiration time has not elapsed. The expiration time is associated with the stored data to be read. As described above, Owashi does not teach a method which uses an embedded expiration time directly compared with the current time to determine if the stored data should be invalidated. For at least these reasons, the independent Claim 21 is allowable over the teachings of Owashi.

Claims 22, 23, 27-29, 31 and 32 are all dependent upon the independent Claim 21. As discussed above, the independent Claim 21 is allowable over the teachings of Owashi. Accordingly, Claims 22, 23, 27-29, 31 and 32 are all also allowable as being dependent upon an allowable base claim.

The independent Claim 33 is directed to a media storage device for storing data and invalidating stored data after a predetermined period of time. The device of Claim 33 comprises means for obtaining a current time from a clock source, means for decrypting an expiration time associated with the stored data, means for comparing the expiration time to the current time, and means for invalidating the stored data if the current time is earlier than or equal to the expiration time. As described above, Owashi does not teach means for invalidating stored data if the current time is earlier than or equal to the expiration time. Owashi teaches inhibiting reproduction. For at least these reasons, the independent Claim 33 is allowable over the teachings of Owashi.

Claims 34, 36, 39-41 and 43 are all dependent upon the independent Claim 33. As discussed above, the independent Claim 33 is allowable over the teachings of Owashi. Accordingly, Claims 34, 36, 39-41 and 43 are all also allowable as being dependent upon an allowable base claim.

The independent Claim 44 is directed to a method of invalidating stored data after a predetermined time period. The method of Claim 44 comprises (a) waiting until a predetermined time interval has elapsed, (b) obtaining a global time from a clock source, (c) decrypting an expiration time associated with the downloaded data, (d) comparing the expiration time to the

global time to determine if the expiration time has elapsed, (e) repeating a through d until the expiration time has elapsed, and (f) invalidating the stored data when the expiration time has elapsed. As described above, Owashi does not teach invalidating the stored data when the expiration time has elapsed. Owashi teaches inhibiting reproduction. For at least these reasons, the independent Claim 44 is allowable over the teachings of Owashi.

Claims 45, 46, 48 and 50-52 are all dependent upon the independent Claim 44. As discussed above, the independent Claim 44 is allowable over the teachings of Owashi. Accordingly, Claims 45, 46, 48 and 50-52 are all also allowable as being dependent upon an allowable base claim.

The independent Claim 53 is directed to a method of invalidating stored data after a predetermined time period. The method of Claim 53 comprises: (a) obtaining an encrypted expiration time from a remote source, (b) downloading an encrypted data stream associated with the expiration time onto a media storage deice, (c) waiting until a predetermined time interval has elapsed, (d) obtaining a global time from a clock source, (e) decrypting the expiration time associated with the downloaded data, (f) comparing he expiration time to the global time to determine if the expiration time has elapsed, (g) repeating c through f until the expiration time has elapsed, and (h) invalidating the stored data when the expiration time has elapsed. As described above, Owashi does not teach invalidating the stored data when the expiration time has elapsed. Owashi teaches inhibiting reproduction. For at least these reasons, the independent Claim 53 is allowable over the teachings of Owashi.

Claim 54 is dependent upon the independent Claim 53. As discussed above, the independent Claim 53 is allowable over the teachings of Owashi. Accordingly, Claim 54 is also allowable as being dependent upon an allowable base claim.

The independent Claim 55 is directed to a network of devices. The network of devices of Claim 55 comprises a receiving device for obtaining a received stream of data and a media storage device coupled to the receiving device for storing the received stream of data and invalidating the stored stream of data after a predetermined period of time. The media storage device comprises an interface circuit, a media coupled to the interface circuit, and a control circuit coupled to the interface circuit and the media. The interface circuit receives the received stream of data from the receiving device. The stream of data includes content and an expiration time associated with the content. The media stores the received stream of data. The control circuit compares a current time to the expiration time and enables the stored content to be read from the media if the expiration time is earlier than the current time and invalidates the received

stream of data if the expiration time is later than or equal to the current time. As described above, Owashi does not teach invalidating the received stream of data if the expiration time is later than or equal to the current time. Owashi teaches inhibiting reproduction. For at least these reasons, the independent Claim 55 is allowable over the teachings of Owashi.

Claims 56, 60, 61, 63 and 64 are all dependent upon the independent Claim 55. As discussed above, the independent Claim 55 is allowable over the teachings of Owashi. Accordingly, Claims 56, 60, 61, 63 and 64 are all also allowable as being dependent upon an allowable base claim.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Within the Office Action, Claims 5, 7, 13-15, 18, 24-26, 30, 35, 37, 38, 42, 47, 49, 57-59, and 62 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Owashi in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,247,069 to Smyers et al. (hereinafter "Smyers"). The Applicants respectfully disagree with this rejection.

Claims 5 and 7 are both dependent upon the independent Claim 1. As discussed above, the independent Claim 1 is allowable over the teachings of Owashi. Accordingly, Claims 5 and 7 are both also allowable as being dependent upon an allowable base claim.

Claims 13-15 and 18 are all dependent upon the independent Claim 11. As discussed above, the independent Claim 11 is allowable over the teachings of Owashi. Accordingly, Claims 13-15 and 18 are all also allowable as being dependent upon an allowable base claim.

Claims 24-26 are all dependent upon the independent Claim 21. As discussed above, the independent Claim 11 is allowable over the teachings of Owashi. Accordingly, Claims 24-26 are all also allowable as being dependent upon an allowable base claim.

Claims 30, 35, 37, 38 and 42 are all dependent upon the independent Claim 33. As discussed above, the independent Claim 33 is allowable over the teachings of Owashi. Accordingly, Claims 30, 35, 37, 38 and 42 are all also allowable as being dependent upon an allowable base claim.

Claims 47 and 49 are both dependent upon the independent Claim 44. As discussed above, the independent Claim 44 is allowable over the teachings of Owashi. Accordingly, Claims 47 and 49 are both also allowable as being dependent upon an allowable base claim.

Claims 57-59 and 62 are all dependent upon the independent Claim 55. As discussed above, the independent Claim 55 is allowable over the teachings of Owashi. Accordingly, Claims 57-59 and 62 are all also allowable as being dependent upon an allowable base claim.

For the reasons given above, Applicant respectfully submits that the Claims 1-64 are in a condition for allowance, and allowance at an early date would be appreciated. Should the Examiner have any questions or comments, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned at (408) 530-9700 to discuss the same so that any outstanding issues can be expeditiously resolved.

Respectfully submitted,
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Dated: April 6, 2005

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING (37 CFR§ 1.8(a))

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the U.S Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

HAVERSTOCK & OWENS LLP.

Date: 4/6/05 By: